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Dated: <u>December 20, 2004</u> Signature:

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Docket No.: 416272001500 (PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ar mut entr pv 11/8/05

In re Patent Application of: Gregorio DEL VAL et al.

Application No.: 09/776,454

Filed: February 2, 2001

For: METHOD FOR ASSESSING FOOD

ALLERGENICITY

Art Unit: 1635

Examiner: B. Whiteman

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

MS AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated October 22, 2004, (Part of Paper No./Mail Date 101504), for which a response is due on January 22, 2005. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Additionally, this response is filed within two months of the mailing date of the Final Office Action and therefore qualifies for expedited review. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.

The conclusion begins on page 12 of this paper.

sf-1819081